

9-6-1857

Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler and Matilda Smith from Isaac Smith and Margaret Smith

Isaac Smith

Margaret Smith

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beat them on the day of the election easy
if we ~~don't~~ do not I may hunt a free territory
for I should not like to live a mongst Sla-
very again, but I do not apprehend any
danger. Hutchinson has just got back from
the Umpqua, he took his family last spring
and went out there to correct some survey-
ing that Armstrong done he calculated when
he started that he could do it in two
or three weeks but it took him about
three months it will be a losing busi-
ness to him or Armstrong one I do not
know which, — The children has bin going
to school this summer the school was out
last Friday they are all growing very fast
and learn well when they have the chance
our last Teacher says Rufus is getting a very
correct knowledge of Grammar & Algebra he
has bin through Davies Rhetoric several
times, write to often and let me know
how all the cousins & friends get along —
no more at present but remains your Brother
& sister until death

Isaac & Margaret Smith

Bridgeport Oregon 24 Septemberth 1851
Dear Brother & Sisters

I address you a few lines
to inform you that you are still remembered
though there are many miles between us I
make it a practice to think back frequently,
I hope I shall never become so unmindful of
dear friends as to forget them under any circum-
stances all though we are careless about writing
it is ^{not} for the want of affection procrastination may
have its part in the matter but it is generally
for the want of something that I think would
interest you. These lines leaves us as well
as usual Margaret has bin complaining for some
time with her old complaint, she has bin
taking medicine from a botanic Doctor she
thinks he has hope her soon, her and the
children except Rufus & Wright has gone down to
Isaac's to see her Mother, Bergman drove and
John carried the whip & followed us, for
them he is cutting teeth at this time it
makes him some what cross ~~at this time~~
he is a pretty fine looking boy if you will
believe what we have to say about it.

the reason that I did not go with them I had
a severe tooth ache it is the first time I have
had it since I have been in Oregon and hope
it is the last there is as much comfort in it
as there is in war pestilence & famine you
will probably come to the just conclusion that
I was anxious to write, I feel some what relieved
to day though my tooth threatens to make me quit
occasionally. The connections are all well as far as I
know except Elijah I understood he was compl-
aining I do not know whether it is any thing serio-
us or not. I received a letter from Matilda last
mail I was glad to hear that you was all well
and doing well but sorry to hear of your backward
spring and poor prospect for crops. She thought
she would make me feel bad in consequence of
Meginney having plenty of Apples to eat,
I feel as independent as a hog on ice a haunt
Apples we have about 30 bushels on trees that
I have set out since I came here, we have
had ripe ones for the last five or six weeks
we also have five or six peach trees full of
peaches now beginning to get ripe we have had
a few pears and had a few cherries & plums

we have a Almond tree full of Almonds but
I must stop this or you will think I am
boasting, we have had an unusual dry season
here ~~this~~ it has not rained of any consequence
since the first of May crops are quite light thou-
gh there are plenty and to spare I have raised
plenty and probable more. I have been princi-
ple engaged this summer in hauling rails to
fence me a large pasture the ^{country is} becoming
over stocked and them that want grass will
have to fence there land and a most every
person that can is at it, the grass here is
a great portion of the wealth of the country
and without it we would be as bad off
as the people of Ireland without potatoes.
The people here have decided to form a State
constitution our delegates is in session now,
they get along very slow, but I have hope
they ^{will} do it up right before they get, there is
considerable excitement on the slavery question it
is to be decided in Oct by a direct vote of
the People the country here are nearly all
with Missourians and they nearly all ^{are} in favor
of a slave State but we calculate to

Butler Family Letters

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Title: Letter to Brother and Sisters from Isaac and Margaret Smith (Bridgeport, Oregon Territory)

Date: September 6, 1857

Transcription:

Bridgeport Oregon Ty Septembe 6th 1857

Dear Brother & Sisters

I addrefs you a few lines to inform you that you are still rememberd though thare are many miles betwen us I make it a practice to think back frequently I hope I shall never become so unmindful of dear frinds as to forget them under any sicumstances all though we are carlefs about writing it is not for the want of affection procrastination may have its part in the mater but it is generally for the want of somthing that I think wold interest you. those lines leaves us as well as usal Margaret has bin complaining for some time with her old complaint. She has bin taking medisn from a botanic Doctor she thinks he has [hope] her some. her and the children except Rufus and Wright has gone down to Isaacs to see her Moher. Beryman drove and John careyed the whip & hollowed wo, for them. he is cuting teeth at this time it makes him somewhat crofs. he is a perty fine looking boy if you will believe what we have to say about it.

the reson that I did not go with them I had a severe tooth ache it is the first time I have had it since I have bin in Oregon and hope it is the last thare is as much comferet in it as thare is in ware pestilence & famine you will probable come to the just conclusion that I was anxious to write. I feell some what relieved to day though my tooth thretens to make me qit occasionally. The connexion are all well as fair as I know except Elijah I understood he was complaining I do not know whether it is anything serious or not. I recived a letter from Matilda last Mail I was glad to heare that you was all well and doing well but sory to heare of your backward Spring and poor prospect for crops. She thought she wold make me feel bad in cosequence of Meginnes haveing plenty of Aples to eat. I feel as independant as a hog on ice about aples we have about 30 bushels on trees that I have set out since I came heare we have had ripe ones for the last five or six weeks we also have five or six peach trees full of peaches now begining to get ripe we have had a few pears and had a few chereys and plums. we have a almond tree full of almonds but I must stop this or you will think I am boaisting. we have had an unusal dry season heare it

has not rained of any consequence since the first of May crops are quite light though there are plenty and to spare I have raised plenty and probable more. I have in principle engaged this Summer in hauling rails to fence me in a large pasture the country is becoming over stocked and them that wants grants will have to fence their land and almost every person that can is at it. the grants here is a great portion of the wealth of the country and without it we would be as bad off as the people of Ireland without potatoes. the people here have decided to form a state constitution our delegates is in session now. they get along very slow, but I have hope they will do it up right before they get it. there is considerable excitement on the slavery question it is to be decided in Oct by a direct vote of the people the country here are nearly all with Missourians and they nearly all are in favor of a Slave State but we calculate to beat them on the day of the election easy if we do not I may hunt a free territory for I should not like to live amongst slavery again, but I do not apprehend any danger. Hutchenson has just got back from the Umpqua, he took his family last spring and went out there to correct some surveying that Armstrong done he calculated when he started that he could do it in two or three weeks but it took him about three months it will be a losing business to him or Armstrong one I do not know which. The children has been going to school this Summer the school was out last Friday they are all growing very fast and learn well when they have the chance our last teacher says Rufus is getting a very correct knowledge of Grammar & Algebra he has been through Daves Arithmetic several times. write to often and let me know how all the connection & friends get along.

No more at present but remains your Brother & Sister until death

Isaac & Margaret Smith